

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 00703 031341Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
DODE-00 EUR-12 ARA-10 /053 W
-----103707 031349Z /53

R 021503Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3683
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
USDAO ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 7 0 3

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR MASS TO DM
SUBJ: ATTITUDES OF WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES TOWARDS BENIN

REF: STATE 48804

IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR UNSOLICITED
NEGATIVE OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC
OF BENIN, THE FOLLOWING REMARKS OF COLONEL ASSILA,
SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE TOGOLESE ARMED FORCES, MAY
BE OF INTEREST. ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT TO
LOME OF THE USS VALDEZ, DCM ACCOMPANIED THE CAPTAIN
OF THE VALDEZ ON A COURTESY CALL ON COLONEL ASSILA.
DURING THE CONVERSATION, ASSILA MADE OBVIOUSLY
PREPARED REMARKS TO THE EFFECT THAT TOGO WARMLY
WELCOMED THE VISIT OF THE VALDEZ BECAUSE IT KNEW
THAT SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS WERE REGULARLY VISITING
COTONOU AND IT WANTED BENIN TO NOTE THAT
TOGO ALSO HAD FRIENDS. COLONEL ASSILA HAS MADE
SIMILAR REMARKS ON NUMEROUS OTHER OCCASIONS IN THE
PRESENCE OF OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS. IN FACT, HIS
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CONCERN MAY APPROACH OBSESSION AS HE CONTINUES TO
RECEIVE REPORTS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO BENIN FROM
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE USSR AND CUBA.
PALMER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LOME00703
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780097-0968
Format: TEL
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803115/aaaadtts.tel
Line Count: 59
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d3de3dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 48804
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3143029
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTITUDES OF WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES TOWARDS BENIN
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TO, DM, UR, (ASSILA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3de3dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014